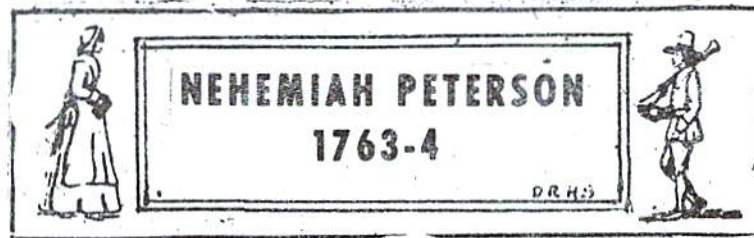


Thursday, September 5, 1968

DUXBURY CLIPPER



Late in 1762 Nehemiah Peterson bought land west of Island Creek Pond from Oliver Seabury who had just inherited it from his father, who had it from George Partridge, who had it as a grant in 1666. During the next two years, 1763 and 1764, whenever he could get time from helping on his father's farm in Ashdod, Nehemiah worked on a house, finishing it in time to bring his bride, Priscilla Dillingham, there in December, 1764.

Princess was the daughter of Jeremiah Dillingham of Pembroke, a tinker and brazier, who when he visited his daughter, would set up shop for a few days, mending tin ware and making new for Duxbury people. As they came to the tinker in a newly settled part of town, they got to calling the area Tinkertown, and so it is today.

Nehemiah and Princess had seven children and that meant additions to the house, the last nearly doubling the size. Nehemiah could well afford to enlarge his house for besides a good farm, he was part owner of a prosperous sawmill on Island Creek. Shortly after the last addition comes an interesting division of the homestead:

Nehemiah Peterson, ye oman, sold to his son, Perez, for 80 pounds, "all the new end of my dwelling house in sd Duxbury and the houselot and garden spot, bounded as follows: beginning at the road about two rods from the South side of sd house, thence ranging North through sd house taking in all the new end thereof, that is the West end, with one half the chimney in the new end thereof, that is the West end, with one half the chimney in the old house"-----then follows land bounds, and a last paragraph explaining that it is his intent that Perez have only one half of the garden "divided Equally for quantity and quality" but "to improve it together, as a garden and there is a great Advantage" etc., sd Perez and his heirs to use "the front Doar of the old house to pass and repass." This last bit about the Doar seems almost an after thought. The deed is dated January 12, 1791.

So, Perez and Nathaniel lived together in the old house, farming to the advantage of each, until 1803, when in November Perez Peterson, for \$150, (note that pounds are out and currency is in dollars) sold to Joshua Bryant, of Duxbury, "the whole of that part of a dwelling house and garden and houselot in Duxbury which I purchased from my father, Nehemiah Peterson."

Joshua Bryant had come from Plympton in 1800 to marry Princess Peterson, Perez' sister, and as he is mentioned as "of Duxbury" in 1803, he was probably living in the Peterson household for the three years before he bought half the property. When Nehemiah died, the youngest son, Ezias, inherited half the farm, but somehow it all came before long, into possession of the Bryant branch of the family and was passed down from generation to generation until 1920.

When the present owners, Kenneth and Arline Bunten, bought in 1929, the house was in a neglected state--farming had not been profitable for some time, owners had grown old, the recent owner had made makeshift improvements, and the whole place was run down. The best that can be said is that no doubtful "improvements" had spoiled the original part of the house. The bedroom that Daniel Webster slept in when he stayed with Joshua Bryant for duck hunting, was still a small room in the new West end, and the sturdy old and new ends defied time. Careful work has restored the 18th century Nehemiah Peterson farm house, on the north side of Elm St., in Tinkertown.

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